

# Lionfish

*Pterois volitans/miles*

These many-finned fish live up to their name, with their stripes and flowing fins resembling the mane of a lion. They are from the Pacific and Indian Oceans but have been introduced to the Atlantic and Caribbean Oceans from aquariums. These fish's fins aren't just for show, they are also to warn other animals that they should stay away, because they pack venomous spines!

## What is a non-native or invasive species?

If an organism is introduced to an area where it is not historically known to live, it is considered non-native. A species is considered invasive if it establishes a breeding population and causes harm to the native ecosystem, human health, or the economy.

USGS Nonindigenous  
Aquatic Species (NAS)  
Database

